

REMARKS

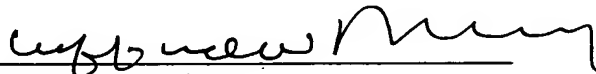
In the Office Action mailed January 11, 2010, claims 1-6 and 22-36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over a combination of Tamura et al. and Smith et al. In addition, claims 1-11 and 20-36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tamura et al. and Smith et al. in view of Perbellini et al. Lastly, claims 1-11 and 16-36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tamura et al. and Smith et al. in view of Perbellini et al. and Kuhla et al.

The Examiner also indicated that claims 12-15 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The claims have now been amended to place claims 12-15 in condition for allowance. Claim 12 has been rewritten in independent form, and now includes all the limitations of the base claim and the intervening claims, as directed by the Examiner. Furthermore, claims 8-11 and 16-21 have been amended to depend from amended claim 12, and rejected claims 1-6 and 22-36 have been cancelled.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended claims 12-21 and 37-40 are now allowable over the prior art of record.

Respectfully submitted,

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